

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-12, and 14-49 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, and 12 have been amended.

In the Office Action dated June 27, 2003, the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 1, 2003, was objected to for failure to attach a PTO-1449 form. Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references accompanying the Information Disclosure Statement and enclose herewith the PTO1449 which was inadvertently omitted.

Applicants note that a fifth supplemental information disclosure statement was filed on June 24, 2003, and respectfully request consideration of the references cited therein.

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yung (U.S. Patent No. 6,484,350) in view of Bachinski (U.S. Patent No. 5,240,479).

Claims 2-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yung and Bachinski, and further in view of Meijer, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,834).

Claims 14-49 were allowed.

Claims 8-14 were considered to contain allowable subject matter. With regard to these claims, the Examiner acknowledged that " the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the canister vacuum cleaner of claim 1 wherein an annular airflow space is defined between said filter and an interior wall of said dirt cup that defines said dirt separation chamber." Applicants have therefore amended claim 1 to include this limitation without conceding that this is the only distinguishing feature. **Claims 8, 9, 11 and 12** have been amended. Claim 8 was amended to delete the subject matter added to claim 1. Claims 9, 11 and 12 were amended to change their dependencies. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that

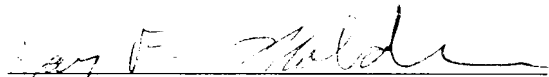
Appln. No. 09/944,731
Amdt. dated September 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2003

claims 1-12 are now in condition for allowance.

An early allowance of all of pending claims **1-12** and **14-49** is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Subst. Form PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No.: RYLZ 2 00658	Serial No.: 09/944,731
APPLICANT'S(S') INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	Applicant(s): Murphy, et al.	
	Filing Date: August 31, 2001	Group: 1724

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Initial*		Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Subcl.	Filing Date
	AA	4,571,772	02/1986	Dyson			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
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	AH						
	AI						
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	AM						
	AN						
	AO						

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Class	Subcl.	Translation
	AP	EP 0 966 912 A1	06/1999	Europe			
	AQ	683 225	11/1939	Germany			
	AR						
	AS						
	AT						
	AU						

OTHER ART

	AV 1			
	AV 2			

Examiner:

Date Considered:

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.